

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber array housing a stripped fiber in a V-groove of a V-groove substrate comprising:
  - a fiber fixing substrate fixing said stripped fiber; and
  - a peripheral adhesive disposed around said stripped fiber;wherein an end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed ~~no more than 10  $\mu$ m~~ depth x with respect to an end face of said fiber, said recess depth x being at least 0.1  $\mu$ m and no more than 10  $\mu$ m.
2. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein ~~a said~~ recess depth x that said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end face of said fiber is related to a water absorption ratio  $\phi$  of said peripheral adhesive and a length L over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation  $x = 0.1(\phi L) / 2$ .
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ end face of said fiber is flush with ~~said an~~ said end face of said fiber array or protrudes therefrom.
6. (Currently Amended) The fiber array according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed at most 10  $\mu$ m from ~~said an~~ said end face of said fiber array.

7. (Previously Presented) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral adhesive has a Young's modulus of at least 0.03GPa.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end faces-face of said ~~fibers~~fiber, comprising the steps of:
- assembling said fiber array;
  - first polishing an end face of said assembled fiber array; and
  - then ashing or etching said end face of said fiber array at which said end face of said peripheral adhesive and said end ~~faces-face~~ of said ~~fibers~~fiber are located.
9. (Previously Presented) An optical device that is connected/fixed to a fiber array according to claim 1.
10. (Previously Presented) A fiber array housing a stripped fiber in a V-groove of a V-groove substrate comprising:
- a fiber fixing substrate fixing said stripped fiber; and
  - a peripheral adhesive disposed around said stripped fiber;
- wherein an end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed a depth x with respect to an end face of said fiber; and
- wherein said recess depth x is related to a water absorption ratio  $\phi$  of said peripheral adhesive and a length L over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation  $x = 0.1(\phi L) / 2$ .
11. (Previously Presented) The fiber array according to claim 10, wherein said recess depth x is at least 0.1 $\mu$ m.